THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) have formed a Joint Venture Company (JVC) namely *viz.*, Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL), Mumbai with M/s. British Gas Plc., U.K., an international company.

(c) Yes, Sir. The technology made available by M/s. British Gas has helped MGL to effectively execute the city gas distribution project in Mumbai and also to acquire rich experience to design, fabricate, operate and maintain the natural gas pipeline network in the densely populated areas.

LPG pipeline between Chennai and Pondicherry

2386. SHRI C.P.THIRUNAVUKKARASU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the proposed LPG pipelines connecting Visakapatnam with Secunderabad and Mangalore and Coimbatore;

(b) whether there is any proposal to lay LPG pipeline between Chennai and Pondicherry; and

(c) if so, by when it will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has achieved an overall progress of 6.1% against the schedule of 6% in respect of its Vizag-Secunderabad Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) pipeline. Supply of bare line pipes has been awarded and the tender for construction of pipeline has been floated. GAIL is in the process of carrying out the pre-project activities for the proposed Mangalore-Coimbatore LPG pipeline.

(b) and (c) The proposal for connecting Chennai only with LPG pipeline is at concept stage and no feasibility study has been carried out.

Supply of kerosene through Public Distribution System

2387. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to limit the supply of kerosene through public distribution system to persons below the poverty line;